

Clinical Image

Periorbital Edema after Patent Blue V[®] Injection Julie Horevoets

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A 51-year-old woman, recently diagnosed with a left-sided breast carcinoma, was admitted to the operating theatre for a mastectomy with sentinel lymph node biopsy. After induction, 1 ml of Patent Blue V[®] dye was injected subareolarly into the left breast. At the end of the operation, a bluish periorbital edema (Panel A) and a generalized blue urticarial rash were observed, without any hemodynamic repercussions during the operation. An intravenous dose of 50 mg ranitidine and 100 mg hydrocortisone was administered. On the first postoperative day, there was a nearly complete resolution of the periorbital edema (Panel B) and the urticarial rash had entirely disappeared.

It has long been recognized that Patent Blue V[®] dye is associated with adverse reactions ranging from cutaneous allergic reactions to severe anaphylaxis. Patients should be informed about these risks and surgeons should inform anesthetic colleagues when Patent Blue V[®] dye is used.

